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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1, 1915.

MR. ROOT'S GREAT SPEECH

The magnificent speech that Chairman Root made in advocacy of the short ballot provision in the constitutional convention was far more in its great significance than merely a telling oration, an effective plea, or a winning argument. It was all of these and more. It was a testimony that the old order has changed; that the seed long ago sown by men who could not make it bring forth its full fruitage is now to be cultivated and cared for by the men to whom has fallen the opportunity.

Mr. Root's castigation of the old system of "invisible government" was a description of something long recognized and understood, but not always admitted by those who knew most about it and were most familiar with its workings. Mr. Root, in coming squarely out for the advanced view on this question, in deserting the old boss system for which Barnes stands so strenuously, has done a great service to the State and nation.

His new position makes certain that the progressive ideals of that group of leaders who for years have been fighting against invisible government are now to prevail. The people are coming at last into their own. The old corrupt and corrupting system has received a death blow.

In this view the Root speech is epochal; it is one of the most tremendously important pronouncements of decades. Mr. Root realized that and expected his hearers to realize it; the dramatic manner of his utterance suggested that he believed he was making the supreme effort of a life that has contained many great efforts.

Thus does a splendid indorsement accrue to the credit of the men who pioneered long ago in behalf of the measures that made for real restoration of their government to the hands of the people. They made the fight, they did the rough work which made victory possible; but it was not for them to enjoy all the immediate gratification of seizing the victory their sacrifices had wrought.

It was for a clear-seeing, earnest man of the conservative side of the Republican party, the acknowledged leader of the party, to take up the work and demand a forward movement. That is what Mr. Root's speech at Albany meant. It was not a speech to the constitutional convention merely. It was a speech to the nation; to the future; a speech which accepted that which has been proved good and must now be adopted.

Thus did Mr. Root pay tribute to the pioneer work of Roosevelt, and Beveridge, and Bristow, and Norris, and Cummins, and Borah, and Dilliver, and the others of that devoted group who led the way. They carried the flag far ahead of the fighting line. Now it is for the more conservative forces of the party to give the command that the line shall be moved to the advanced position where these advanced ones have been holding the colors. It was Mr. Root's position and privilege to order the regiment up to the colors; and he gave the order.

The Root address, thus viewed, thus understood, becomes one of the great political landmarks of the generation.

UNCLE SAM DISCOVERS THE WANT AD PAGE

The Federal Government is finding newspapers more and more valuable adjuncts to its work. Every department of the Government, within the last few years, has made greater provision for disseminating information, and these have found the newspapers the most universal medium of circulating this information.

The latest utilization of the newspaper by the Government is not through its news pages, but its advertising columns. A plan to circulate newspaper "want ads" through Federal, State, and even municipal employment bureaus had its inception with the President. This is the outgrowth of the experiments the Department of Labor has made with finding jobs for the unemployed.

The Government is not alone in finding advertising pages of a newspaper valuable. The habit of "skipping the ads" has been abandoned by careful buyers, and those who search for the business news of a community. Even the economists, who long regarded advertising as a species of lost motion, now recognize it as a valuable aid to distribution, as valuable in its way as transportation, and as necessary.

Some Government bureaus depend wholly upon the dissemination of in-

formation to get results. Notably there are the Children's Bureau and the United States Bureau of Education. These are principally informative bureaus.

Both are more anxious to get results of their research work before the general public than to embody it in ponderous reports. The formidable volume of figures and statistics that no one reads has been abandoned. Instead there are terse statements, sent out through newspapers, that catch the reader's eye.

The use of the "want ads" by the Government will be an interesting experiment. The "want ad" columns of the average newspaper constitute a municipal employment bureau. There is no reason why the Government should not make use of them as the private citizen long has been doing.

FIRE TRAPS AT THE PRESIDIO

It takes a pretty sensational example to impress the American people with the existence of a menace to safety. The Eastland disaster had to supplement the General Slocum tragedy. Will other lives have to be offered as a sort of human sacrifice before the Government itself will be impressed with the danger in the fire trap garrison buildings like those at the Presidio?

Mrs. Pershing and her three children are not the only lives that have been sacrificed by the ramshackle buildings at the Presidio. Nine women and children, in all, have lost their lives through fires at the place where the Government asks a man's family to remain while he is serving his country.

The chief engineer of the San Francisco fire department attests the imminent danger. He said, "It is a crime to force families, especially where there are children, to live in many of the houses provided by the Government at the Presidio. They are veritable fire traps. It is a shame to ask men who are willing to sacrifice their lives for their country to live in such buildings."

The Government should be a model employer. It has passed laws prescribing certain standards of working conditions in some industries, not only at the Presidio, but on others, it permits conditions that constantly menace human lives and occasionally culminate in a tragedy like that which overtook the Pershing family.

CONSIDER THE FIREMAN

No one who knows the conditions under which Washington fireman works will disagree with the demand of Chief Wagner for fifty additional men to relieve the present conditions.

How would you like to be on duty, continuously, for five days, and then graciously be permitted to go home to your family on the sixth day?

That is what a Washington fireman has to face. He is not busy all that time, it is true, but men would much prefer to do their work and have it over with.

To comfort the fireman, he has the cheerful knowledge that if he is killed on duty his family will receive only a fraction of the pension allowed him, and that, if he is injured, he will get only a portion of the pension coming to him.

Washington can well afford to create human conditions among its firemen, and it will be a welcome day when Congress is convinced of that fact.

THE GALLIOLI MOVE

There is so much detail in the dispatches describing the big strategic move of the allies on the Gallipoli peninsula a few days ago, by which they are reported to have bottled up the Turkish forces, that the story carries more conviction than most early accounts of big war moves.

The Gallipoli peninsula is about sixty miles long and from two or three to fifteen miles wide. The early landings of the allied forces were made in the lower reaches of this strip of land, whose eastern shore fronts the Hellespont. When last spring's efforts to hammer through that waterway with only the guns of battleships failed it became necessary to land troops, and this landing was fearfully expensive and ill-conducted. The gains along the peninsula have been painfully slow.

But now it appears that the Turks failed utterly to protect the upper and narrower parts of the peninsula. The allies made a feint at landing heavy forces in Asia Minor, as if to undertake a great advance on Constantinople from that direction; they drew off a large share of the Turkish forces, and then suddenly, on the night of August 13, landed a force of 60,000 on a great transport and battle fleet, rushed it into the Gulf of Saros, on the western side of the peninsula, and made a landing under cover of darkness without noise or fuss. There was not even opposition to the landing; the big force pushed rapidly inland and seized the higher ground commanding the communications between the lower peninsula and the mainland, thus cutting off the Turk defenders from their communications. The

operation as described was a marvel of secrecy, preparation, and effectiveness. The Turks were completely misled, and now they have a great force hemmed in between the British forces in the southern part and this newly landed army in the north.

It is not safe to assume that the advantages are all on one side. The new British landing force has a powerful Turk army to the south of it, while to the north is the main land of European Turkey, with the Constantinople garrison and other forces whose strength must be considerable. Thus there is the possibility that the allied landing party may itself be found in a vise between the two forces of Turks. It would seem to be a question whether the British naval forces in the Gulf of Saros can co-operate with the landed army so effectively as to prevent a squeeze of this kind. Doubtless the allies' staff is confident of its position or it would never have undertaken such an enterprise.

Within a few weeks, the confident forecasts opine, the Dardanelles forts will fall and the European side of the Hellespont will be in the hands of the allies. The Sea of Marmora has been penetrated by submarines of the allies, and it is generally assumed that the Bosphorus fortifications would not hold out very long if once the Dardanelles were subdued and the Russians and western allies could concentrate their forces at the Bosphorus. It is not claimed that Constantinople is likely to fall before spring, however, and while the Turk remains there Russia will not have been relieved.

Important as seems this coup of the allies on the Gallipoli, its ultimate effects must depend on the course of larger operations. If the Balkan states enter the war the end for Turkey is at hand, and every day adds to the probability that the entire Balkan power will shortly be thrown to the allies. If that be true, then it will be within reason to say that the greatest achievement of the mid-summer campaigning will be not Germany's push into Poland but the allies' conquest of the Near East.

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MAIL BAG

(From The Times' Readers.)

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Denies That the Cigarette Is Condemned By Scientists.

The Editor of THE TIMES: The person signing as "Mrs. N. H. B." in The Times has plainly overdone the part. A man evidently is hiding behind the "Mrs."

Let N. H. B. visit the trenches of Europe and observe the men, nine-tenths of them, smoking cigarettes. The great majority of our own soldiers and sailors do the same. I speak from experience, having been one of them. As to the charge that scientists, etc., declare against the cigarette, the reverse is the case. The latest publication of the oldest and most conservative medical journals, after an exhaustive inquiry, published its conclusions, that the cigarette is the least harmful method of using tobacco. Also the head surgeon of the Hanham Hospital, and scores of eminent physicians have ridiculed the anti-cigarette craze.

JAMES BOND,
Johnson City, Tenn., August 31.

Declares Automobiles Pay No More Attention To Pedestrians Than They Do To Chickens.

The Editor of THE TIMES: Noticing in your valuable paper of the 25th instant, an article stating that the District traffic laws are oppressive, I would state that these laws are not oppressive, in justice to the common people, and would be if there were more of a curb put on the traffic of the streets, especially at street car junctions. Why, a person's life is not safe. The automobiles pay no more attention to pedestrians than they do to chickens. Going all speed across car tracks while the crossing "cop," who is supposed to regulate the traffic, is looking the other way, it is a good business speed, but it is not safe. It is not until the car is stopped that the pedestrian can get across. It is not until the car is stopped that the pedestrian can get across. It is not until the car is stopped that the pedestrian can get across.

ROBERT STILLINGS,
Washington, August 31.

Thinks Doctors Would Benefit By Repeal of Speed Law.

The Editor of THE TIMES: I want to congratulate your paper for championing the automobile's cause.

I have no car, but I like to see people ride as fast as they can. I think pedestrians should be punished for obstructing the passage of automobiles. How ridiculous that an automobile has to stop when passengers board or alight from a street car. Why, if you can't get on the car, you can't get on the car. You can, and have a longer ride for the same money. If you can't get to a car, wait for the next one, and maybe then another one. The speed law will encourage industry, for when people see how dangerous it is to be a pedestrian, they will be more careful. The doctor, especially, will benefit by a repeal of the speed law, for at the same time he will be able to get on the car. A SUBSCRIBER,
Washington, August 31.

Glad He Is a Jingo, If Desire For Adequate National Preparation Makes Him One.

The Editor of THE TIMES: James G. Kent thinks that everybody who wants preparedness for protection is a jingo. Then I am glad that I am a jingo, for I cannot see the logic of installing a burglar alarm after the thief has entered my house.

As for European nations being too busy with their own wars to be of any use to us, I believe there will be no more wars, just because of "ideal." William Jennings Bryan says there should not be another war. The ideal is laudable, all efforts made for peace are commendable, and the motives unquestionably good, but the danger is that the world will be turned toward the United States at the conclusion of the European conflict.

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HARRY A. HITE,
Washington, D. C., August 31.

Finds Theory of Displacement of Unfit Is in Contravention To Social and Political Manifestations.

The Editor of THE TIMES: Probably there is not another department of your paper more appreciated than the "corner" by Dr. H. H. Hite, to which statement should be added a salvo to the enterprise of The Times in securing Dr. H. H. Hite's services. Particularly do I "thank" you for the article on the "corner" of G. Bernard Shaw's "30,000," that with the doctor's subject of August 26, "How Some Mutations Question Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection," he has thrown some light into the befuddled minds of the general population in regard to the "corner" of H. H. Hite.

Through study as a layman and alone I had about twenty years ago found out that the theory of Darwin's displacement of the unfit was in contravention to the social and political manifestations, for it appeared that if there was anything more than a mere "corner" it would mean that the method society uses to "foster" humanity were but a "laughing stock" of a fool's errand, and that the "corner" was a multiplication of the unfit, an inevitable conclusion. In other words, I ran upon the fact that nature in a broad sense serves the whole instead of a part, and does this through unity. Consequently, any "weeding out" process is born of man's idea, that this is not a universal law, and is only forced through dual thinking—an absurdity, though engendering the world for quite a while.

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New Traffic Laws Will Meet No Opposition on Part of White House

(From The Times' Readers.)

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No Motorist in District Has More Reason to Criticise Absurdities of Present Regulations Than President and Members of His Official Family.

No persons using automobiles in the District of Columbia have more reason to criticise the absurdities of the present traffic laws in the District than the President of the United States and members of his official family.

And while the President and other high officials of the Government have been insisting that no special exemptions should be granted them, it is safe to assume that radical improvement of the laws would meet with no opposition from the White House.

Although it is stated that neither the President nor Secretary Tumulty has attempted to interfere with the operation of the law, it is known that both have watched with interest the movement started by The Washington Times to bring about a reform.

SHOWS HOW THE LAWS WORKS.

As far back as a year ago President Wilson was given a striking illustration of how the laws work. One evening while the White House chauffeur was driving the President along a particularly dark street, the chauffeur turned on the road lights for a few moments.

Hardly had he done so before a traffic policeman on a motorcycle was beside the car, loudly upbraiding the driver.

When the policeman was in the midst of demanding that the chauffeur report at the station house the next morning, he recognized the President inside, and without more ado, started to "beat it."

Called By President.

The President called him back.

"I do not expect any special privilege," he told the policeman. "If we were violating the laws, you had just as much right to call us to account as anyone else."

The experience of Secretary Tumulty more recently was even more striking.

When Mr. Tumulty, who was seated on the front seat with the driver, spoke up and explained that it was practically impossible to drive a heavy car down a hill at less speed, without bringing it to a dead stop, the policeman ordered both the chauffeur and Mr. Tumulty to report to the station house. This they did, and the policeman fined \$5.

"I don't want to comment on my experience now," said Mr. Tumulty to-day. "Just say I took my medicine as it was given."

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